

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson
City of Salisbury
Public Information and Communications
City Hall, 217 South Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144
Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050
Home Phone: 704-633-7123
Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>
Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov

City of Salisbury Names Rory B. Collins as New Police Chief *Collins' to Bring Leadership Skills, Vast Training, and Law Enforcement/Military Background to Salisbury Police Helm*

Salisbury, NC_March 17, 2010 – City Manager David Treme announced today that Rory B. Collins has been named the new Police Chief for the City of Salisbury. Collins will assume the leadership role from Lieutenant (Lt.) Rodney Harris effective Thursday, March 18, 2010. Harris has served as Acting Police Chief during the interim following the December 2009 retirement of Police Chief Mark Wilhelm. A former U.S. Marine, Collins will report directly to Treme and oversee Salisbury's internationally accredited law enforcement agency of more than 100 employees. Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz will administer the Oath of Office to Chief Collins during the 4 pm City Council meeting on Thursday of this week.

Collins' background in local law enforcement spans twenty years. A prior Rowan County Sheriff's Deputy and S.W.A.T. team member, Collins began service to the City of Salisbury as a Master Police Officer with rapid promotions to Police Detective and Assistant Team Leader. Additional service and career roles include Patrol Sergeant/Watch Commander, Police Lieutenant/Special Operations Commander, Police Lieutenant/Patrol Commander, General Investigator, and Drug Investigator. Collins was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police for the Salisbury Police Department during 2008. In addition to his extensive leadership responsibilities and experience in the areas of Patrol and Police Operations, Collins has more recently planned and overseen the department's Services Division. As Services Division Commander, Collins has managed the following divisions: Hiring & Recruitment, Training & Development, Records, Communications, Victim Services, Community Services, Downtown Services, Reserve Officer Program, Evidence Handling & Inventory, and Project SAFE. In addition, Collins has directed the Chaplaincy program and supervised Equipment/Technology and Facilities.

A 2003 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Livingstone College, Collins possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. As a student, he was recognized as an All American Scholar and received the Academic Gold Medal. Collins is a 2009 graduate of the University of Virginia's LEAD program and a 2009 graduate of the Municipal and County Administration course offered through the UNC School of Government. He possesses approximately 2,000 hours in various law enforcement management and practices training. Collins is a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice

Honor Society and was named the Salisbury Police Department's 1997 Veteran Officer of the Year, the 2003 Employee of the Year, and recipient of the 2004 Top Gun Award. In addition to receiving the Life-Saving Award, a Commendation Ribbon, and a Department Citation, he has been awarded Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates by the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Collins also currently serves as Director of the federally-funded Project SAFE Neighborhoods Salisbury-Rowan task force.

City Manager David Treme shares, "Chief Rory Collins is an outstanding and accomplished leader who possesses both professional expertise in law enforcement and strong operational skills. Rory understands the multifaceted nature of running our police organization and the importance of engaging our local community in efforts to enhance public safety. I have every confidence that Chief Collins will offer a strong law enforcement presence in our community and that Salisbury will benefit greatly from his wealth of knowledge, training, and experience." In a previously issued release, Treme shared that several individuals employed within the ranks of the Salisbury Police Department had shown an interest in the position of Chief. During that time, the City Manager provided that, "All things being equal, my preference is to select the most qualified individual who is currently serving in a leadership capacity within the Salisbury Police Department." Four internal applicants applied for the position and participated in the two-day panel interview process. Treme selected Collins with assistance by Salisbury Management Team members and area Police Chiefs who participated in the interview process. In a Council-Manager form of local government, such as that of Salisbury, it is the duty of the City Manager to appoint all department heads, including the Chief of Police. In closing, Treme added, "I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to Lt. Rodney Harris for his outstanding assistance in serving as Acting Police Chief during this time. Harris will return to his current duties of Lt. of Professional Standards within the ranks of the police department.

Collins offers, "It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that I accept the position of Police Chief for the City of Salisbury. I am both humbled and proud to receive this opportunity to continue serving our citizens alongside the brave and dedicated men and women of the Salisbury Police Department. Our mission is to provide quality law enforcement services with honest, fair, and ethical treatment of all. Together, we will strive to create an environment in which citizens and visitors feel safe in all parts of our City." Collins is a member and deacon at First Baptist Church in Salisbury. He is married to wife Traci and has a son, Chandler.

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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